

DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Christopher Scherer on Aug 14, 2008.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 1 has been replaced by;

-- Claim 1, A method of assessing patient flow through care units of a hospital using a computer having a microprocessor comprising:
electronically collecting a set of hospital data for each care unit of a hospital, the set of hospital data including;
a set of hospital statistics, wherein the set of hospital statistics includes inventory of beds and monitored beds, average occupancy of each unit average patient length of stay. number of health care personnel, health care personnel to patient ratio, patient acuity range patient transports, admission sources and frequency, and discharge sources and frequency and a set of hospital macro data, wherein the set of hospital macro data includes average e number of admissions, source of admissions frequency of admittance, average number of discharges, frequency of discharge, average overall stay in hospital average number of emergency department visits and percentage visits and percentage admitted, average occupancy and length of stay and average cost per admission;
electronically assigning an hourly cost to each care unit per patient including costs associated with doctor time, nurse time staffing drugs, IV and equipment based upon the set of collected hospital data:

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electronically building a model based upon the collected set of hospital data and the assigned hourly cost for each care patient wherein building a model includes building a multi-level model of the hospital care units, describing each unit in terms of numbers of monitored beds and other resources and average length of stay, and further describing each care unit by the percentage of patients going to other care units; simulating the flow of patients through the hospital using the model, wherein the simulating step utilizes the collected set of hospital data for each care unit per patient by at an admission start, describing the number of patients to be admitted per unit time and the length of time to run the model; and changes recommending_ hospital resource changes using the model and the results of the simulating step.

Claim 16 has been replaced by;

-- Claim 16, A computer implemented system for modeling patient flow through care units of a hospital comprising:
a collection module configured to accept a set of hospital data, the set of hospital data including a set of hospital statistics, wherein the set of hospital statistics includes inventory of beds and monitored beds, average occupancy of each unit average patient length of stay, number of health care personnel, health care personnel to patient ratio: patient acuity range, patient transports, admission sources and frequency, and discharge sources and frequency and a set of hospital macro data wherein the set of hospital macro data includes average number of admissions source of admission frequency of admittance, average number of discharges, frequency of discharge average overall stay in hospital average number of emergency patient visits and percentage admitted, average and length of stay, and average cost per admission;
an assignment module configured to assign an hourly cost to each unit per patient for patient including costs associated with doctor time, nurse time staffing, drugs, IV, and equipment based upon the set of collected hospital data;
a model module configured to build a model of the flow of patients through the hospital, the model based upon the set of collected hospital data and the assigned hourly cost for

each care unit per patient wherein building a model includes building a multi-level model of the hospital care units, describing each unit in terms of numbers of monitored beds and other resources and average length of stay, and further describing each care unit by the percentage of patients going to other care units; a simulation module configured to simulate the flow of patients through the hospital, wherein the simulation module utilizes the set of hospital data for each care unit per patient by, at an admission start~ describing the number of patients to be admitted per unit time and the length of time to run the model; and a resource module configured to determine a resource utilization of the hospital by utilizing the model and the output of the simulation module.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1-3, 5-19, and 21-22 are allowable over the prior art of record as argued by Applicant's representative in their response filed 2/7/08.

Conclusion

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Clement Graham whose telephone number is (571) 272-6797. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 7:00AM to 5:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kambiz Abdi can be reached on (571) 272-6702. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

**/Frantzy Poinvil/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3692**

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June 7, 2008